

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

## White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council

### Meeting Minutes

**March 19, 2009**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Burnette called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at the Whiteriver Unified School District Day Care, 422 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Whiteriver, AZ 85941. Chair Burnette asked everyone to introduce themselves.  
**Members Present:** Shine Burnette, Deborah Clendon, Laurel Endfield, Velma Kaytoggy, Dennie Parker-Cromwell (left at 10:15 a.m.), Faye Smith (arrived at 10:15 a.m.), Dr. Tim Strand, Erwin Thompson  
**Members Excused:** Harrisen DeClay, Kirk Massey, Jr., Mary Kline  
**Member Unexcused:** None  
**Other Attendees:** Julie Fitzgerald, AdiShakti Khalsa, Maureen Theobald
- 2. Discussion and Possible Adoption of the February 19 and March 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes:** Chair Burnette reviewed the February 19, 2009 meeting minutes. Member Strand motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented; Member Clendon seconded the motion; motion passed 6:0:0. Chair Burnette reviewed the March 2, 2009 emergency meeting minutes. Member Thompson motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Member Strand seconded the motion; motion passed 6:0:0.
- 3. Call to the Public:** Julie Fitzgerald, Outreach Coordinator for the Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC), reviewed her organization's literature, The Child Care Connection, and the Child Care Resource & Referral pamphlet. She also passed out literature on T.E.A.C.H. and Quality First and discussed the funding being provided by First Things First to ASCC for these programs. Ms. Fitzgerald stated she has accepted a position as a Quality First Coach, so she may not be able to attend future Regional Partnership Council meetings.
- 4. Discussion and Possible Adoption of Emergency Relief Strategy(s):** Coordinator Lacapa reviewed the Amended Funding Plan Summary to reflect the reallocation of regional funds to address the emergency support strategies being implemented for FY2010.

Coordinator Lacapa, reviewed the enclosed Support Box strategy as articulated by the Regional Partnership Council at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Suggestions for additional items to include in the support boxes include:

- Children's vitamins
- Bottled baby water for formula
- Children's/baby shampoo, body wash
- Bibs
- First aid kits
- Possibly uniforms for 5 year-olds about to enter kindergarten

For families with multiple children birth through age five, items in the Support Box will be more targeted toward the younger child. Coordinator Lacapa noted that this is a short-term strategy, which would be run by an administrative home that would purchase the items and prepare the boxes and the boxes would then be provided to various distribution points working with children birth through age five.

After discussion, the Regional Partnership Council felt that families that qualify for WIC should be allowed to also receive a Support Box since WIC has a higher income qualification level. Member Strand noted that WIC serves approximately 80% of the population of children birth through age five and not 90% as listed in the strategy and that they not only provide formula but healthy foods as well.

Discussion was held and it was determined that the administrative home would check a current pay stub every three months in order to confirm that the parent(s) is still on furlough and meets the qualifications requirements to receive the Support Box. Additionally, the Regional Partnership Council wanted to verify that families receiving the Support Boxes are not receiving commodity foods. Coordinator Lacapa agreed to insert that language into the strategy as well as include it in the application.

Coordinator Lacapa asked if this Amended Strategy is staying true to the initial determinations of the Regional Partnership Council—they responded that it was. Discussion was held about potential agencies that could serve as an administrative home and responses included:

- The Living Hope Center
- Johns Hopkins NARCH Program (Habitat for Health)
- Head Start (since they are located in Whiteriver, McNary, and Cibecue).

Coordinator Lacapa stated that she'd work on the Scope of Work and contact these sites to determine their interest in serving as an administrative home and will then get a review committee together for the potential grantees.

Changes to the Support Box Application included:

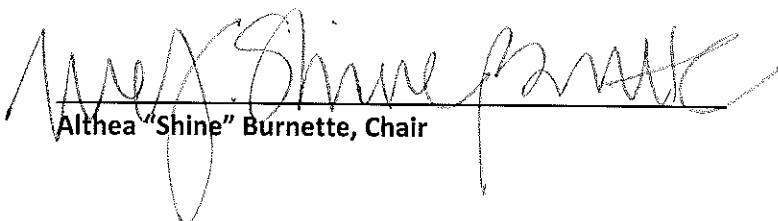
- Adding the Date of Birth for each child
- Asking for a physical address
- Denial letter from the food commodities program

Coordinator Lacapa briefly discussed the additional scholarship money provided by the State Board, which came to \$95,000 for this region and added that United Way will be the administrative home for this. This will support families up to 200% of the federal poverty level. If a center wants to participate, they must first submit an application to Quality First. The

question was raised as to whether a person could apply if on the DES waiting list; Regional Manager Khalsa confirmed that they can. Chair Burnette asked how quickly this will be available; Regional Manager Khalsa stated the administrative home was just established but that it will be as soon as possible.

5. **Update on Request for Grant Application (RFGA) Status – Phase 2:** Coordinator Lacapa stated that the Finance Department is working on the Scopes of Work for the Dental and Communications Strategies. These should be ready within a few weeks; they will follow the same process with a pre-application meeting.
6. **Overview of RFGA Review Committees and Meeting Dates:** Coordinator Lacapa reviewed the list of review committees and reminded Regional Partnership Council members that training would take place sometime during April 16-20 for approximately an hour and the actual review committees would meet sometime during April 20-30, 2009. Member Strand stated he would have a conflict from April 22 through 24, 2009. The question was raised as to the Coordinator's responsibilities with these review committees; Coordinator Lacapa stated her role is to set up and facilitate the meetings but not to partake in the decision-making process.
7. **Coordinator's Report:** Coordinator Lacapa reviewed the articles that were sent to the Apache Scout and the list of presentations and meetings she's attended in the community. Member Strand asked if administrative leave had been approved yet; Coordinator Lacapa stated the last Tribal Council meeting had been cancelled so she hasn't been able to present to them yet. She has asked to be on the agenda at next Tribal Council Meeting.
8. **Items for the Good of the Order:** A reminder was made to be here at 1:00 p.m. today for the Award Presentation by State Chair Nadine Mathis-Basha. Also, the Health Board Meeting will be on March 30<sup>th</sup> and Coordinator Lacapa is on the agenda. Chair Burnette and Coordinator Lacapa drafted a letter to the Health Board regarding data collection and have created packets of information for them. Chair Burnette plans to attend the Health Board Meeting, as well.
9. **Adjourn:** Having no further business to discuss, Chair Burnette adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Approved:



Althea "Shine" Burnette, Chair



Rochelle Lacapa, Coordinator